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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH

for

the year

1953

September, 1954.

J.H.C. Eglinton
Medical Officer of Health

L.C. Corlett
Sanitary Inspector

To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF STREET.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Urban District for the year 1953.

The estimated mid-year Home population being 5,964 shows a definite increase compared with last year (5,746).

There has been a marked increase in the number of live births: 84 (66 in 1952), and a remarkable decrease in the number of deaths: 36 (63 in 1952). It is interesting to note in this connection that the decrease is most marked in Heart and Vascular Lesions and Cancer.

Mortuary - one notes the relatively large number of cases admitted from outside the Urban District during the year.

There was a small epidemic of whooping cough in the first Quarter of the year and a more extensive epidemic of measles in the second and third quarters of the year; the last quarter being particularly free from Notifiable Infectious Disease.

May I again stress the great importance of maintaining and increasing immunisation against diphtheria, and note that official sanction has now been given for combining this with whooping cough.

One notes with satisfaction that the Mass Radiography Unit has now arranged to make regular annual visits to the district.

It is interesting to note that the 300th Post War house was completed during the year; a notable achievement for a district of this size. This event was celebrated with an Official Opening by the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and further commemorated by the planting of trees.

Milk - A keen interest continues to be shown by the local authority in the maintenance of a clean milk supply.

Water - The construction work of the new 15" section of the Trunk Main from Rodney Stoke was completed during the year and should help to maintain an adequate supply of water in the near future.

In conclusion, may I, once again, thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued courtesy and the Staff for their loyalty and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.H.C. EGLINTON

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 acres.
A Penny Rate produces £115 (approx).

	1953	1952
Population - The estimated mid-year Home population for 1953 was	5,964	5,746
The number of live births, one illegitimate, was (42 male, 42 female)	84	66
Giving a live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated home population of	14.08	11.8
The live birth rate for England and Wales being.....	15.5	15.3
The number of still births was.....	5	0
Giving a still birth rate per 1000	56.07	0
The still birth rate for England and Wales being.....	22.4	
The total number of deaths was	36	63
(18 males and 18 females)		
Giving a death rate per 1000 of the estimated home population of	6.3	10.96
The death rate for England and Wales being.....	11.4	11.3

Infants

The number of deaths of infants under one year.....	1	2
Giving an Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births of.....	10.90	30.30
The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales being...	26.8	27.6

Causes of Death

Tuberculosis (respiratory).....	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach : 1).....	9	15
(lung : 0)		
(breast : 0)		
(uterus : 1)		
(other : 7)		
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	13
Coronary disease, angina	6	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	4	3
Other heart disease.....	2	9
Other circulatory disease	0	1
Influenza	0	1
Bronchitis	0	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis	1	1
Nephritis	0	4
Congenital malformations.....	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	1
All other accidents.....	1	-
Suicide	0	0

Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever.....	1	12
Measles	140	4
Pneumonia	10	3
Whooping Cough	48	5
Erysipilas	3	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0

Notification of Tuberculosis

Respiratory.....	5	4
Non-respiratory.....	0	0
Deaths during year	3	1

Tuberculosis

Number of cases on the Register on December 31st	17	19
Respiratory	16	17
Non-respiratory	1	2
Scabies - no case was reported during the year	0	0

Diphtheria Immunisation

Primary (one year and under: 66)	78
In last five years from January 1st, 1949 Primary and Booster	673

Vaccination

No. of vaccinations reported (one year and under: 8)	14	9
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Child Welfare and Nursing Associations (Somerset C.C.)

The child welfare and nursing associations have again had a busy year, giving a very useful service to the community.

The Child Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday in a section of the Hindhayes Infant School, where the District Nurses, three in number, ordinarily attend; I have attended as Medical Officer on alternate Wednesdays. The Child Welfare Committee and voluntary helpers continues to contribute to the smooth running of the clinic.

Activities

Owing to the increase in work it has not been possible to have so many short talks and demonstrations as in previous years. Ordinary Clinic Sessions and Immunisation Sessions against diphtheria have been held as in previous years.

Child Welfare Attendances

1. Number of children who first attended during the year, and who at first attendance were under 1 year of age: 67
2. Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in:

(a)	1953	:	57
(b)	1952	:	53
3. Total attendance during the year made by children who at the age of attendance were:

(a)	Under 1 year of age	763
(b)	Over 1 year, under 2	211
(c)	Over 2 years under 5	219
(d)	Total attendances made by mothers	1009
4. Number of individual mothers who attended during the year 144
5.

(a)	Total number of sessions held	50
	With Medical Officer	23
	Other sessions	27
(b)	Number of children examined by doctor	83
(c)	Total number of Medical Consultations	121

Attendances by the District Nurse

General Nursing :	Cases	346
	Visits	6,171
Midwifery and Maternity Cases		35 home confinements
Ante natal visits for home and hospital confinements		816
Infant Welfare Sessions attended		51
Diphtheria Immunisations		11
Infant Health visits: Total		2,000
No. of infants 0 - 5 years		527
Visits to age group 0 - 1 year		759
Visits to age group 1 - 2 years		395
Visits to age group 2 - 5 years		846

School Work

Medical Inspection Sessions by School Medical Officer	42
Parents interviewed at home following medical examinations	148

It will be seen that the work of the District Nurses includes maternity, midwifery, ante-natal, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspections &c. as well as the ordinary district nursing duties.

The number of visits to old people continues to be an important part of the work.

Analgesia

The nurses are provided with the necessary equipment and the mothers are given analgesia at their confinements if so desired.

Home Help Service

The Home Help Service, with a local Honorary Organiser, is under the direction and control of the County Council and is part of the County Health Scheme. It continues to be an invaluable service. Its success is in no small measure due to the efforts of Mrs. Marsden, the local organiser, whose efforts I cannot too highly praise.

It has had an exceptionally busy winter. During January and February the record number of 35 and 36 patients was reached. The average number per month for the rest of the year being 26.

It has proved impossible to cover all the work at all times with local help, owing to illness amongst the workers. It has, therefore, on occasion, been necessary to obtain help from outside the district, this help being reciprocated whenever possible.

A minimum number of 8 workers is required for the work and a more adequate response to the advertisement for additional helpers would be appreciated.

The service rendered is primarily during illness in the home being particularly valuable to the elderly people and to those living alone. In addition, assistance is rendered in domicillary, maternity and midwifery cases, operation cases etc.

Old Peoples' Welfare

The Street Old Peoples' Welfare Committee formed in 1951 successfully continues its activities.

The Social Club has become firmly established and has met weekly on Thursdays at the Crispin Hall. The members played cards, dominoes and chess, read the wide variety of periodicals provided or just chatted together. Outings were again arranged during the summer

and various entertainments were given. A great deal of help was again forthcoming from voluntary organisations.

The Visiting Service was continued during the year and old people unable to get out and about were regularly visited in their homes by a team of visitors. There appears to be a very great need for such a service which undoubtedly gives pleasure to the old people concerned.

The Meals on Wheels Service has been successfully maintained and continues to deliver hot midday meals to old people in their homes at a small cost.

Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited Street. A record number of 1,703 were surveyed at Messrs. C. and J. Clark's factory, following which the unit surveyed a further 618, including 214 children of the general public at a local hall.

Dogs and Shops

The general public have again co-operated with the shopkeepers and continued to respond to the appeal of the local authority to exclude dogs from shops, particularly food shops.

Greenbank Swimming Pool

This bath, privately owned, situated in Wilfrid Road, Street, was made possible through a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark, a pioneer in the welfare of women and children. It has once again proved to be a great asset to Street and district, people and school parties coming from considerable distances.

The capacity of the bath is 200,000 gallons, the water is heated and the children's section is separate from the adults.

The attendance at the pool for the season amounted to 41,000 and of this number 30,000 were juniors, 8,000 adults and 3,000 spectators.

Difficulties arose in connection with the heating system, these being overcome during the closed season, the entire plant being overhauled.

The method of purification continued to be breakpoint chlorination.

Every endeavour was made to maintain the standard of cleanliness, special attention being paid to the dressing rooms and surrounds. The matting on the diving stages was removed, its place being taken by a non-slip paint with a view to reducing the risk of foot infection.

Regular samples were taken by the local authority and sent to the County Analyst, the results being generally satisfactory.

A qualified Bath Superintendent with other helpers is in regular attendance and the Urban District Council is represented on the Management Committee.

The normal season is from May 1st to September 30th.

Parks

There are two small parks in Street at Merriman Gardens and Wraxhill, for the elderly peoples relaxation and childrens amusement. In addition, there is the Victoria Playing Field where cricket, tennis and football are played; there is also a Playing Field and Sports Ground in Grange Road belonging to Messrs. C. and J. Clark, Ltd.

The facilities provided above are real assets to the district and it is noticeable how well patronized are the sun shelter and ornamental seats in Merriman Gardens.

The Huts

It is gratifying to note that the remaining huts on the West Camp site have been cleared, the people recently occupying them rehoused and the way is now clear to proceed with the necessary reclamation work in order to return this valuable open space to its former purpose of recreation for the young people of Street.

Cemetery

The number of burials during the year was 30. (48 in 1952)

The work of extension of the existing cemetery was carried out during the year, and this should fulfill the requirements of the district for a number of years.

Mortuary

The number of cases admitted during the year:

1. From within the Urban District : 3 (1 in 1952)
2. From without the Urban District : 15 (11 in 1952).

Bakehouses, Restaurant Kitchens etc.

Inspections and re-inspections of these premises were carried out during the year and notice of the occupiers was drawn to any item requiring attention.

Dairies

The usual visits were paid to the retail dairies in the district and the general conditions found were reasonably satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Routine inspections of Factories etc. have been made, including inspections in connection with lavatory accommodation.

Generally satisfactory conditions were found and where necessary attention was drawn to any sanitary defects which existed.

WATER SUPPLY

- (1) Has the water supply of the district been satisfactory -
 - (a) In quality:- Yes
 - (b) In quantity:- Yes. Main source in use during whole year, only necessary to supplement supply during short periods from Honeyhurst Well during summer.
- (2) State particulars of any shortage which may have occurred during year and steps taken to remedy same:- Nil.
- (3) Piped supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
1				25	1	1	

4. Waters liable to have Plumbo-solvent action - state what action taken:
Nil.

5. Action respecting any form of contamination:
Where one unsatisfactory sample received immediate follow up
samples taken with satisfactory results.

6. Water Supplies from Public Mains:-

(a)	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES	
	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population
	1702	Estimated 5908	6	25

(b) No. of parishes with piped water supply:-

(i) from public mains: 1 (ii) from private reservoirs -

(c) No. of parishes without a piped supply of water: Not applicable

(d) Particulars of any extension of public water supplies:-

Extension made to existing supply mains to serve new housing
site.

(e) No. of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well
water. Not applicable.

7. Water supplies from wells:-

NO. OF SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS			
Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
N I L			

No. of wells closed: Nil

No. of houses relying on well supplies: Nil

Extensions or improvement of Supplies during year - only as given
above.

Future Proposals: give in Priority Groups, parishes or villages
concerned.

Where necessary to future housing sites.

Any observations

Work on 4½ mile Trunk Main completed flushing work to cleanse
still in progress. Main not yet brought into use.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Give list of parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems:-

Main drainage to district.

Give any extensions of sewers, new works or improvements during year:

Extension to serve new housing site and provision of Ejector Pumps to serve one Housing Site.

Future Proposals:- give Priority Group I, villages concerned and any observations.

Not applicable.

CAMPING SITES

No. of camping sites for which licences have been issued: 1

Maximum number allowed per acre: 7

Period of occupation:- (i) Permanent: One individual caravan limited period.

(ii) Seasonal: -

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in district on 31st December, 1953: Figures not known, very few pail closets in district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

How is House Refuse removed:-

- (a) By Contract or direct labour: by direct labour.
- (b) No. and type of vehicles employed: Karrier Bantam Refuse Collector.
- (c) Frequency of collection: Weekly
- (d) No. of parishes covered by routine collections: District.
- (f) Is cesspool emptying carried out by: Local Authority: No.
Contract: No.

How is House and Trade Refuse disposed of:

- (a) No. of controlled tips: One.
- (b) No. of uncontrolled tips: -
- (c) By incineration: -

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

- (a) Privately owned: 1 Location: Greenbank Swimming Pool.
Average No. of bathers daily. 100 - 150 a day during season

Water used and purification plant:-

Name of Bath	Water			Type of Purification Plant	Treatment			
	Main	Sea	Other		Recir-culation	Fil-tra-tion	Chlorination Auto-matic	Hand
Greenbank Swimm-ing Pool, Wil-frid Road.	Yes			Chlorination and pressure filter	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Routine comparator tests taken each week revealed satisfactory content, free chlorine present			
	Bact.Exam.2		Bact.Exam. 2

Any observations

A satisfactory state of cleanliness maintained at all times. Immediate steps taken to remedy deposit found in circulation pipe after the one unsatisfactory sample. Follow up samples gave very satisfactory results.

Housing

	Houses erected during year		Housed in course of erection		Conversion to flats or dwellings	Temporary such as Army Huts
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.
Local Authority	88	-	32	-	-	-
Private Enterprise	11	-	6	-	-	-
TOTALS	99	-	38	-	-	-

Inclusive of those above built during the year -

Give - Total number of houses in District : 1708
 Total number of houses owned by Local Authority: 453

No. of Post War Houses erected to 31st December, 1953		Programme for 1954	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
		Under constr: 31 Yet to start: 24	Estimated 12

- (a) No. of unfit houses in the District but on which no formal action has been taken
- (b) No. of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit. Estimated 65 exclusive of Camps.
- (c) No. of houses occupied under (a) nil (b) -

Houses required:

- (i) To replace those unfit under (a) - (b) -
- (ii) To abate overcrowding: Estimated 65
- (iii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions e.g. two families living in same house but not included in (i) or (ii): Estimated 80.

Grants Made Under the Housing Act, 1949.

Nil.

FOOD

Milk

- (a) No. of Registered Distributors: 4
- (b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises: 5
- (c) No. of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside your area: 1

Milk Sampling

Biological Samples

Samples taken by County Council. No samples taken by this Authority.

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for:-

- (a) Manufacture and retail: 1
- (b) Manufacture only: nil
- (c) Retail only: 11

No. of Samples taken: Nil by this Authority.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

- (a) No. in use under Ministry of Food: Nil
- (b) No. in use where horses are slaughtered
for human consumption : Nil.

Approximate weight of meat condemned in lbs - nil.

Observations if any.

Other foods condemned:

Tinned Meat: 72lbs. 4oz.

Other tinned foods: 42lbs. 2 oz.

PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED

No. registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: Nil

BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Date Byelaws came into operation: -

Any action taken respecting enforcement and result -

Observations if any.

Routine Inspection made.